



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE  
3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, Oregon 97504  
email address: or110mb@or.blm.gov



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1792(OR116)

JUL 24 2007

Dear Interested Public:

The attached *Environmental Assessment* (EA) for the *Right-Of-Way Request OR 63650* is being advertised in the Medford's *Mail Tribune* newspaper for a 15-day public review period.

The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to grant a right-of-way for the construction/reconstruction of approximately 250 feet of new road on Public Land in the Howard Prairie Reservoir area. The applicant requested this right-of-way to obtain legal ingress and egress to their private land. The application is being processed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) regulations. The private land is described as tax lot 8200, in Section 36, T. 38 S., R. 3 E., W. M. Jackson County, OR.

We welcome your comments on the content of the EA. We are particularly interested in comments that address one or more of the following: (1) new information that would affect the analysis, (2) information or evidence of flawed or incomplete analysis; (3) BLM's determination that there are no significant impacts associated with the proposed action beyond those impacts addressed in the *Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement*, and (4) alternatives to the Proposed Action that would respond to purpose and need. Specific comments are the most useful.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All written submissions from business entities and organizations, submitted on official letterheads, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

All comments should be made in writing and mailed to Kristi Mastrofina, Ashland Resource Area, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504. Any questions should be directed to the Ashland Planning Department at (541) 618-2384.

Sincerely,

John Gerritsma  
Field Manager  
Ashland Resource Area

Attachment:

1 - Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Right-Of-Way Request OR 63650 (24 pp)

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**For**

**Right-of-Way Request OR 63650**

**United States  
Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Medford District**

**Jackson County, Oregon**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

**for**

**RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUEST OR 63650**

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT**

**JACKSON COUNTY OREGON  
EA COVER SHEET**

**RESOURCE AREA:** Ashland

**ACTION/TITLE:** R\W Request OR 63650

**EA NUMBER:** OR-116-07-06

**LOCATION:** T. 38 S., R. 3 E., in Section 25, W.M., Jackson County Oregon (see Map)

<b>List of Preparers</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
John Samuelson	Forest Engineer	Road Specifications
Joe Hoppe	Realty Specialist	Project Lead
Brad Tong	Botanist	Special Status Plants, Botany
George Arnold	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals, Wildlife
Chris Volpe	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries, Riparian
Dave Squyres	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Soils & Watershed
Dave Knutson	Cultural Resource Technician	Cultural Resources
Kristi Mastrofini	Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

**for**

### **RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUEST OR 63650**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) documents the environmental analysis conducted to estimate the site-specific effects on the human environment that may result from the implementation of BLM's proposed action. This document complies with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the Department of the Interior's manual guidance on the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (516 DM 1-7).

#### **B. WHAT IS BLM PROPOSING & WHY?**

The Ashland Resource Area of the Medford District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to grant a right-of-way for the construction/reconstruction of approximately 250 feet of road on Public Land in the Howard Prairie Reservoir area. The applicant requested this right-of-way to obtain legal ingress and egress to private land. The application is being processed in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) regulations. The private land is described as tax lot 8200, in Section 36, T. 38 S., R. 3 E., W. M. In the past, the applicant attempted to acquire an easement and legal access over private land located on the west side of their parcel. These attempts failed and now the applicant is requesting legal access across BLM-administered land. It is BLM policy is to cooperate with private land owners in providing for legal access when other reasonable access is not obtainable.

The BLM also proposes to install about 300 to 400 feet of fencing to manage existing recreation use in the vicinity of the project area. Recreationists are currently accessing public lands from an existing road that crosses the adjacent private land. The fence would be located along the boundary between private and public land to discourage vehicle access across an unmaintained old road bed located on private land. Access would still be allowed along the new proposed road location on BLM land.

#### **C. CONFORMANCE WITH MANAGEMENT DIRECTION, STATUTES & REGULATIONS**

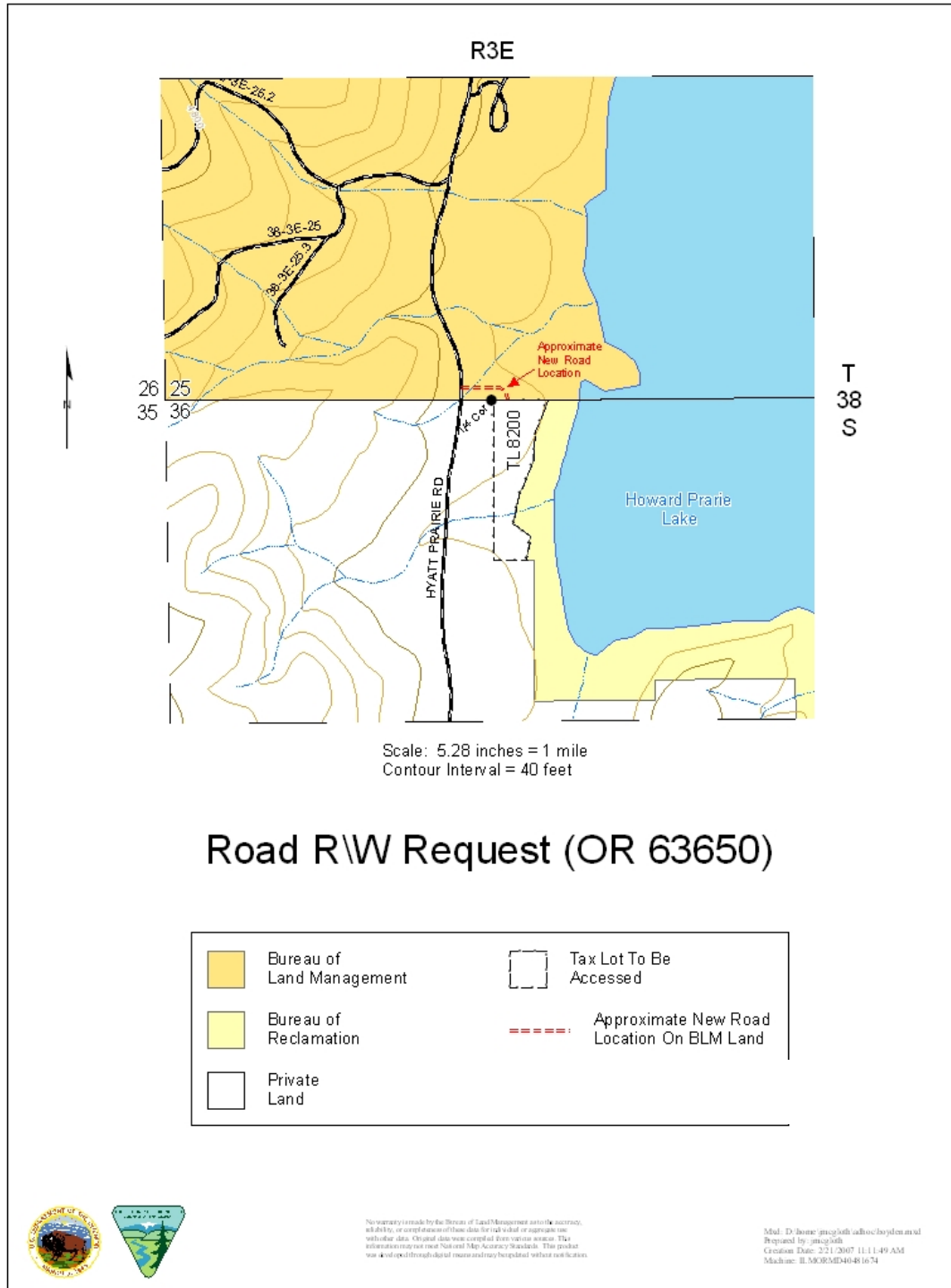
The above project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with and tiered to the 1995 *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*, as amended by the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (USDI, USDA 2001). The Medford District Resource Management Plan incorporated the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*. (NWFP) (USDA and USDI 1994). These documents are available at the Medford BLM office.

The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, the Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

## D. WHERE IS THE PROJECT LOCATED?

The proposed new road is located on the west side of Howard Prairie Reservoir; the legal description is T. 38 S., R. 3 E., in the south ½ of Sec. 25, W.M., Jackson County Oregon (see Map 1).

**Map 1: Project Area**



## **E. DECISIONS TO BE MADE & DECISION FACTORS**

This Environmental Assessment will provide the information needed for the authorized officer, the Ashland Resource Area Field Manager, to render a decision regarding the selection of a course of action to be implemented for the Right-of-Way Request OR 63650 project. The Ashland Resource Area Field Manager must decide whether to implement the proposed action as requested or whether to select the No-Action Alternative. In choosing whether or not to move forward with the proposed action, the Field Manager will consider whether the proposed action is compliant with applicable Federal and State laws and consistent with management direction for BLM-administered lands (43 CFR 2804.25 (d)(1) and 43 CFR 2804.26 (1)).

The decision will also include a determination whether or not the impacts of the proposed action are significant to the human environment. If the impacts are determined to be within those impacts analyzed in the *Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) (USDI 1994) and the *Final SEIS On Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan)* (USDA/USDI 1994), or otherwise determined to be insignificant, a Finding of No Additional Significant Impact (FONASI) can be issued and a decision implemented. If this EA determines that the significance of impacts are unknown or greater than those previously analyzed and disclosed, then a project specific EIS must be prepared.

## **F. ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED IN DETAIL**

### **1. Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative**

Under Alternative 1, the proposed road would not be approved and the applicant would not acquire legal access to their land across public land. This could result with the applicant seeking legal action to acquire access. If legal action is taken it would likely involve the route currently proposed over public land or the existing route over adjacent private land (an option previously explored but without success).

### **2. Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

Under Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, BLM would authorize the issuance of a long term (30 years) FLPMA right-of-way grant (about 250 feet in length) to the applicant. This grant would require about 200 feet of new road construction and 50 feet of road renovation, to connect the private parcel to the nearby County road. About 50 feet of the proposed right of way follows an existing old road which would be upgraded as part of this proposal. Road construction would require the removal of 3 to 4 trees; one 20-inch diameter ponderosa pine, one 7-inch diameter sugar pine, and one 10-inch fir (double stem). The road width would be 12 feet, the right-of-way ingress and egress easement would be 20 feet wide. The following project design features would be required as a condition of constructing/reconstructing and using the new road on BLM administered land.

#### **Project Design Features**

- Crossing of the dry draw would be accomplished through the use of a ford.
- The grade of the road through the draw would approximate the contour of the draw in a way such that flow of water during periods of high runoff is neither impounded by a road surface situated higher than the draw, captured by a road surface constructed lower than the grade of the draw, nor captured in roadside ditches capable of channeling flow into the draw.
- To minimize the spread of noxious weeds:
  1. Vehicle and equipment use off existing roads in the project area would be limited to the dry season.
  2. Mechanical equipment (e.g. graders, loaders, etc.) would be power washed and cleaned of all soil and vegetative material before entering the project area.

3. Seeding of native grasses and/or an approved seed mix on highly disturbed soil would occur.
  4. There are currently no noxious weed populations in the project area. Noxious weeds will be inventoried and treated by BLM. Inventories will occur the first three years after completion of road construction and then periodically thereafter. Treatments will be scheduled by priority and will occur based on the potential of the weed population to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
- The applicant would be required to protect all trees along the edge of the road right-of-way during construction activities. Trees determined to be a safety hazard to workers would be removed in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations (none have been identified at this time).

The BLM also proposes to install about 300 to 400 feet of fencing to manage existing recreation use in the vicinity of the project area. Recreationists are currently accessing public lands from an existing road crossing adjacent private land. The fence would be located along the boundary between private and public land to discourage vehicle access across an unmaintained old road bed located on private land. Access would still be allowed along the new proposed road location on BLM land.

## **G. ALTERNATIVES & ACTIONS CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL**

**Alternate route:** An alternate route involving an easement over the private land on the west side of T. L. 8200 has been considered in the past. However, over a 10 year period the owners of that property have never been amenable to providing an easement to the applicant. Additionally, a route over private land would not be a Federal action and would not require analysis under this EA.

## **H. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

The Proposed Action was analyzed to determine the potential for significant environmental effects beyond those described in the Environmental Impact Statements for the Medford District Resource Management Plan and the Northwest Forest Plan EISs. This Environmental Assessment tiers to and incorporates by reference the Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (USDI 1994); the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (USDA/USDI 1994); and the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (USDA/USDI 2000).

### **1. Soil and Water Resources**

The proposed action is located in the Howard Prairie West Shore drainage JN0106, HUC #18010206030106. The proposed road construction is outside of any Riparian Reserve, but would cross a dry draw with no defined channel and no annual scour or deposition (Reach 3423). The ground in the immediate vicinity of the proposed road is previously disturbed, having been subject to tractor logging in the past, with more recent Class-2 OHV activity creating a number of large non-designated OHV trails crisscrossing the area. OHV activity has also created substantial soil disturbance in the dry draw, which was noted in stream surveys in 2002 and continues at the present time. An existing road accesses the same location as that proposed here, entering across other non-BLM property from the main county road a short distance to the south. The majority of the OHV traffic involved in resource damage appears to be accessing the area using this existing road. There are no rights-of-ways available to BLM or other lands via this existing road, otherwise the need for the current proposal would be moot.

Implementation of the proposed action would create a slight increase in compacted ground and overall road mileage within the drainage. Overall, there has been a net decrease in road mileage of about 14.8

miles on Medford District BLM-administered land within the Jenny Creek Watershed since the implementation of the NWFP in 1995. Current compaction conditions are unknown, but are assumed to be high due to the history of ground-based logging in this drainage. The 1995 Jenny Creek Watershed Analysis reported the West Howard drainage to be 12 percent compacted. However, the potential for significant impacts to hydrologic conditions is low, as the hydrologic system in this area is highly modified due to the presence of the reservoir immediately downstream. The terrain at the site is gentle and rolling, and with implementation of the Project Design Features it is unlikely that any sediment would be transported more than a few yards off site; water resources would not be affected. In a major flood event that produced flow in the dry draw, less than a yard of sediment could be transported the 200 yards down to the confluence with a long duration intermittent stream (Reach 3415) and from there approximately another 200 yards into Howard Prairie Reservoir as a result of this action. Such sedimentation would be insignificant compared to sedimentation processes related to Reservoir operations (raising and lowering water levels) and inputs from vehicular disturbance (runoff from roads and OHV trails) already occurring around the lake under the same flood conditions. No other impacts to water quality or quantity are anticipated.

There would be no direct effects from not granting the right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner could seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance and minor disturbance from road maintenance/renovation.

## **2. Fish**

The implementation of about 250 feet of road construction/reconstruction on BLM administered lands would be located less than ¼ of a mile from Howard Prairie Reservoir, in the Jenny Creek Watershed. One dry draw would be crossed via a ford by the proposed new road. There are no populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species in the vicinity of the proposed construction. Native populations of both Jenny Creek Suckers and Red-Band Trout do occur in Jenny Creek, but they are located many miles from the project area and below the dam that created Howard Prairie Reservoir. Howard Prairie Reservoir is a popular recreational fishery, primarily supporting populations of introduced fish species, including bass and hatchery reared rainbow trout.

The location of the proposed new road would be on relatively flat ground, which would minimize the potential for erosion and transport of displaced sediment off site. However, as the new road would include one dry draw crossing, there would be a slight potential for the draw to route sediment displaced as a result of ground disturbing activities down stream during periods of elevated flow, such as would be expected to occur during a major flood event (see water resources). Any displaced sediment would likely be transported down the draw and eventually into the reservoir, where it would be assimilated into background conditions, and undetectable beyond a few feet from the mouth of the draw.

Given the flatness of the proposed project area, and that any sediment input would only occur during periods when the dry draw had surface flow, and that displaced sediment would then only migrate into the reservoir and quickly settle out, it is highly unlikely that authorizing this right-of-way for new road construction/reconstruction would impact recreational fisheries resources in Howard Prairie Reservoir. Any increased turbidity at the mouth of the draw as a result of this right-of-way could be easily avoided by fish during the short periods when the draw would be routing sediment into the reservoir.

There would be no direct effects from not granting the right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner could seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance and minor disturbance from road maintenance/renovation.



### 3. Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

The Northwest Forest Plan's (NWFP) Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) has four components: Riparian Reserves, Key Watersheds, Watershed Analysis, and Watershed Restoration. It is guided by nine objectives which are meant to focus agency actions to protect ecological processes at the 5<sup>th</sup>-field hydrologic scale, or watershed. How the four components of ACS relate to Right-of-Way OR 63650 is explained below:

1. Riparian Reserves: Riparian Reserve widths for streams, springs, wetlands, and unstable soils have been determined according to the protocol outlined in the NWFPs Aquatic Conservation Strategy. As no defined stream channels would be involved with this project, no Riparian Reserves would be affected.
2. Key Watersheds: Tier 1 Key Watersheds contribute directly to conservation of at-risk anadromous salmonids, bull trout, and resident fish species. They also have a high potential of being restored as part of a watershed restoration program. The Jenny Creek Fifth Field Watershed is a Key Watershed, providing quality habitat for both Jenny Creek Suckers and native Redband Trout. It should be noted that the Tier 1 Key Watershed designation was made primarily to protect Jenny Creek proper as it is important fish habitat for several sensitive fish species, and that this project would have no chance of impacting Jenny Creek proper, as the proposed ROW would be upstream of Howard Prairie Reservoir.
3. Watershed Analysis: BLM completed the Jenny Creek Watershed Analysis in 1995. The WA broke the Jenny Creek Watershed into four sub-watersheds; the project area is in the Upper Jenny Creek sub-watershed, specifically, the West Howard Prairie drainage area. The WA identified a high percent of compacted ground as an issue in this drainage area, as a result of past logging and moderately high road densities. The WA also notes that any streams that feed into Howard Prairie have no direct affect on the Jenny Creek stream system (Pg 81, Jenny Creek WA).
4. Watershed Restoration: Most of the restoration activities in the watershed have focused on mainstem Jenny Creek and its major tributaries downstream of the reservoir. Projects by ODFW and/or BLM include culvert removal and replacement, dam removal, road decommissioning, irrigation ditch fish screens and siphoning, cattle exclusion, riparian vegetation re-establishment, and the acquisition and rehabilitation of the BOX O Ranch area.

#### a. Evaluation of This Action's Consistency with Northwest Forest Plan Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives

The nine objectives of the ACS are as follows:

**Objective 1.** *Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.*

The effects of building/reconstructing 250 feet of road (driveway) are limited to the project site involving less than 0.1 acre of land. There would be no probability of affecting landscape-scale features.

**Objective 2.** *Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.*

Although this road would cross a dry draw, no aquatic or riparian habitats would be impacted by the road. Longitudinal and lateral connectivity within the draw channel and between the draw and the uplands would be maintained via the ford.

**Objective 3. *Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.***

At the site level, the ford would alter the bottom and banks of the draw somewhat, but physical integrity would not be compromised; during the rare times when the draw was actively transporting water, the ford would not constrict or inhibit flow as a culvert might, and the approaches of the road to the ford would act as a stream bank, allowing for natural flow paths.

**Objective 4. *Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.***

Although this road would increase the potential for sediment transport both to and down the draw, and eventually into Howard Prairie Reservoir, this would only occur during a flood event, as the draw would be dry at all other times. Increased sediment transport during a flood event would be within the natural range of variability, and would not compromise survival, growth, reproduction, or migration of aquatic organisms.

**Objective 5. *Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.***

As mentioned, the road would increase the potential for sediment inputs to the draw bottom. Any sediment transported to the draw would be stored in the draw until such time as the draw had sufficient flow to mobilize the sediment to downstream habitats (flood event). Therefore, the timing, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport would mimic baseline conditions. Only the volume of sediment may potentially be increased. As Howard Prairie Reservoir (which trap any sediment) is immediately downstream of the project, the scope of this effect would be very limited, as any additional sediment inputs would settle out in the reservoir and be assimilated and undetectable beyond background conditions, and of no consequence to the rest of Jenny Creek Watershed.

**Objective 6. *Maintain and restore instream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.***

As the road crosses only one dry draw, there is very little probability it could affect instream flows. During a flood event, when the draw was actively transporting water, it is conceivable that the road could route intercepted rain water to the draw. However, as the ground in the vicinity of the road is nearly level, and as only the approaches to the ford would be sloped towards the channel, it is highly unlikely that the road would measurably affect the timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak and high flow. Low flows would not be affected by this road. In the unlikely event that the road routed sufficient water to measurably affect peak and high flows in the draw channel, the scope of this effect would be limited to the channels above Howard Prairie Reservoir, and of no consequence to the rest of Jenny Creek Watershed.

**Objective 7. *Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.***

No meadows or wetlands would be impacted by this road; no disconnect from the “floodplain” of the dry draw would occur.

**Objective 8.** *Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.*

This road would not encroach upon any riparian areas; hence it would not affect plant communities in riparian areas.

**Objective 9.** *Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.*

No riparian areas would be directly impacted by this road. Aquatic habitats that could potentially be impacted include a short portion of an intermittent channel, and Howard Prairie Reservoir. Any sediment transport to these habitats would occur during flood events (see #'s 4 and 5), and as such displaced sediments originating from the road would likely be transported through the intermittent reach during a period of elevated flow and turbidity, and would not be detectable beyond background levels expected to occur during such an event. Native riparian dependent species are adapted to surviving brief periods of elevated turbidity, such as those that can be expected to occur during flood events. Any increased sediment deposition to habitat in Howard Prairie Reservoir would be undetectable beyond what has been already trapped and stored behind the dam.

Beyond the dam, no effects to this, or any of the previous eight objectives would occur as a result of implementing this project.

There would be no direct effects from not granting the right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner could seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance and minor disturbance from road maintenance/renovation.

#### **4. Forest Vegetation**

The project area is located in an area mapped in geographic information systems as late-seral stand condition (patches of large overstory trees greater than 21 inches diameter) in Douglas-fir series and PSME-ABCO Plant Association Group. Field visits by BLM staff verified the forest stand to be open forest condition; the majority of trees are ponderosa pine trees less than 21 inches in diameter. Trees tallied within or immediately adjacent to the proposed right-of-way average only 12 inches in diameter; only four of the trees are greater than 16 inches and two of these are located on adjacent private land (not owned by the applicant). The forest stand in the immediate vicinity of the project area is predominantly ponderosa pine, with some white fir and Douglas fir. The stand is currently in the understory initiation phase with an open overstory and some understory conifer development. The understory is mostly a grass and forb mix with a few shrubs. The construction/reconstruction of about 250 feet of road would involve the removal of less than 0.1 acre of vegetation (including 3 conifer trees) and would dedicate this area to road right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner could seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance.

## 5. Wildlife (Terrestrial)

The road to be built would transect approximately 200 feet of open-forest habitat and then follow an existing road for approximately 50 feet until it enters the subject private property. The result would be the loss of approximately 3 trees (additional trees could be removed if a safety hazard is identified) and 0.05 acre of open-forest habitat. The impact to wildlife would be negligible due to the very small scale of the project.

There would be some disturbance to wildlife in adjacent areas during construction, but this would also be negligible since the open-forest habitat is bounded on both sides by roads where vehicular disturbance is common. Species using this habitat are likely to be habituated to a moderate to high level of disturbance.

The open-forest habitat does not provide habitat for any listed or proposed Threatened/Endangered species, and the project area is not in critical habitat for any listed species. Also, the project area does not provide habitat for either Survey and Manage or Special Status Species, i.e., either out of the range or required habitat features are not present.

There would be no direct effects from not granting the right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner could seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance and minor disturbance from road maintenance/renovation.

## 6. Special Status Botanical Species

Bureau Special Status Plants, Lichens, and Fungi (SSP) include species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), proposed or candidates for listing, State listed, and Bureau designated Sensitive species. For these species, the BLM implements recovery plans, conservation strategies, and approved project design criteria of biological opinions, and ensures that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the BLM do not contribute to the need for the species to become listed. Additionally, Bureau Assessment, Tracking, and District Watch species are included on the SSP list but special protection or management is discretionary.

Some species on the SSP list may have Survey and Manage status. Survey and Manage standards and guidelines are designed to mitigate the impacts from land management activities on rare and uncommon species believed to be associated with late-successional habitat. These actions may include: (1) manage known sites; (2) survey prior to habitat-disturbing activities; and, (3) conduct extensive and general regional (strategic) surveys. These Survey and Manage species also have management recommendations that address known site protection measures.

Surveys for all species on the Medford SSP list were conducted in 2006. Surveys were conducted using the complete survey method. Complete surveys are defined as a 100 percent visual examination of potential suitable habitat in the survey area.

The surveys documented one occurrence of a Bureau Special Status plant species. The one population of *Gilia sinistra* ssp. *sinistra* is a Bureau Tracking species. The project area is not within the range of any federally listed plant.

### Medford District Tracking Plants, Pre-disturbance Surveys Not Required (BTO)

*Gilia sinistra* ssp. *sinistra* is a native annual that is found in open chaparral or forest. It is found in Oregon, California, Nevada, and Colorado, however, there are only 36 sites in the Geographic Biotic Observations geodatabase (GeoBOB). GeoBOB is the BLM's OR/WA regional geodatabase that supports the management of geospatial data for a variety of species, including Survey and Manage species and species in the Interagency Sensitive and Special Status Species Program (ISSSP). This plant is considered rare in Oregon and Colorado (Kartesz, J.T. 2003). All 36 GeoBOB sites are located in the

Medford District's Ashland Resource Area in the vicinity of Howard Prairie Lake.

One population of the Bureau Tracking plant *Gilia sinistra* ssp. *sinistra* is the only Special Status Plant known in the project area. A portion of this population will be lost with construction of the new road. Management of Bureau Tracking plants is discretionary.

*Gilia sinistra* ssp. *sinistra* is known from 14 of 36 Oregon counties (Kartesz, J.T. 2003). The Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center ranks this species as having conservation concern but not currently threatened or endangered. There are 10 sites in the section (T38S R3E Sec 25) with an estimated total of 3900 individuals. It is common in vernal wet areas and old roadbeds. The loss of a portion of a population, up to 30 individuals, will not contribute to the need to list this species. Implementation of this project would comply with the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Bureau Policy on Special Status Species Management, Manual Section 6840.

About 0.8 mile of road construction has occurred in the Jenny Creek watershed (in association with another right-of-way grant) while 15.6 miles of road has been decommissioned. Road building and decommissioning activities on private land are incompletely known. Decommissioned natural surface roads may provide habitat for *Gilia sinistra* ssp. *sinistra*, however, they also may provide habitat for noxious weeds and invasive nonnative plants. Active and recently decommissioned roads are considered lost suitable habitat for most Special Status Plants, Lichens, and Fungi due to loss of soil, soil nutrients, and soil structure.

#### Medford District Bureau Sensitive and S&M B/F Species

There are ten species of rare or uncommon fungi on the Medford SSP list that are also Survey & Manage (S&M) species. These ten fungi are Bureau Sensitive and S&M Category B and F species. As Bureau Sensitive species, the District, per BLM 6840 Policy, is responsible to assess and review the effects of the proposed action and is responsible for their conservation if they are affected by management actions. On the Medford District, usual techniques for assessment and conservation are pre-disturbance surveys and no treatment areas designed to maintain microclimate conditions. As S&M Category B species, the 2001 FSEIS determined that field level surveys prior to habitat disturbing activities are impractical because these species are difficult to identify and/or their occurrence is sporadic or unpredictable, therefore, pre-disturbance surveys are not required. Standards and guidelines are designed to provide for Category B species persistence by managing all known sites (Northwest Forest Plan range-wide) and completing strategic<sup>1</sup> surveys to obtain more information that will be used in determining, among other things, whether the existing reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan are sufficient to provide for the persistence of the species over time. The 2001 Survey and Manage Amendment of the Northwest Forest Plan set a goal of completing these strategic surveys for these species by January 2011. Strategic surveys are managed regionally.

The one S&M Category F fungus that is also Bureau Sensitive is an uncommon species or the concern for persistence is unknown and its status is undetermined. S&M management direction for this category of species is to conduct strategic surveys to collect information to determine species rarity, habitat requirements, range, distribution, and protection needs. Pre-disturbance surveys are not required. Managing known sites is not required and inadvertent loss of undiscovered sites is not likely to change the level of rarity.

Survey and Manage annual species reviews and strategic surveys were not conducted after August 26, 2003. The Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001) recognizes that the annual species review process and strategic surveys are key elements of the decision. With the publication of the FSEIS To

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<sup>1</sup> Strategic surveys – Landscape-scale surveys designed to collect information about a species, including its presence and habitat.

Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines (January 2004), the annual species review and strategic surveys were not performed beyond August 26, 2003. For these ten fungi species suspected or documented on Medford BLM lands, information on range, habitat and habitat connectivity requirements, distribution, and rarity is incomplete or unavailable. The Survey and Manage program was designed to address this lack of information on these species, and depending on the suspected rarity, and ability to detect their presence on a project site, they were placed in various categories for managing them pending the acquisition of more thorough knowledge.

Oregon State Office Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-145, Attachment 5, directs that field units will not be expected to conduct pre-project evaluations for nine of these Bureau Sensitive/S&M Category B species and that Bureau policy (Manual Section 6840) would be met by known site protection and large-scale inventory work (strategic surveys) through fiscal year 2004. See Table 1. \*.

**Table 1. Medford District Bureau Sensitive/S&M B/F Fungi**

Scientific Name	SSP Status	S&M	Medford Occurrence	ORNHIC Rank	NWFP Sites
<i>Boletus pulcherrimus</i> *	BSO	B	D	G2G3/S2	43
<i>Dermocybe humboldtensis</i> *	BSO	B	S	G1G2/S1	4
<i>Gastroboletus vividus</i> *	BSO	B	S	G2?/S1	5
<i>Phaeocollybia californica</i> *	BSO	B	S	G2?/S2?	38
<i>Phaeocollybia olivacea</i>	BSO	F	D	G2/S2	115
<i>Phaeocollybia oregonensis</i> *	BSO	B	S	G2?/S2	13
<i>Ramaria spinulosa</i> var. <i>diminutiva</i> *	BSO	B	S	GUT2/S1?	1
<i>Rhizopogon chamaleontinus</i> *	BSO	B	S	G1G2/S1S2	1
<i>Rhizopogon ellipsosporus</i> *	BSO	B	D	G1G3/S1S3	5
<i>Rhizopogon exiguus</i> *	BSO	B	S	G1G3/S1S2	3

ORNHIC = Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center

NWFP = Northwest Forest Plan

BSO = Bureau Sensitive in Oregon

B=S&M Category B, Rare species, pre-disturbance surveys not practical, manage all known sites, strategic surveys required

F=S&M Category F, Uncommon species, status undetermined, pre-disturbance surveys not required, strategic surveys required

Occur = number of occurrences (populations)

G = Global Rank

S = State Rank

1 = Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity or because it is somehow especially vulnerable to extinction or extirpation, typically with 5 or fewer occurrences.

2 = Imperiled because of rarity or because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction (extirpation), typically with 6-20 occurrences.

3 = Rare, uncommon, or threatened but not immediately imperiled, typically with 21-100 occurrences.

4 = Not rare and apparently secure but with cause for long-term concern, usually with more than 100 occurrences.

5 = Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure.

? = Not yet ranked or assigned rank is uncertain.

D = documented

S = Suspected

\* = referenced in Oregon State Office Information Bulletin No. OR-2004-145, Attachment 5

All 10 species are associated with a forest component found in the project area, i.e. habitat exists in the project area to support these species, see Table 2. All fungi on this list are mycorrhizal and depend on wind and/or animals to spread the spores. Known sites nearest the project area for each species range from 2.0 to 90.3 air miles. Three species occur on the Medford District and four species occur within the Medford District boundary but on other lands (US Forest Service, State of Oregon, and private). Much of the surveys and species information came from the Regional Ecosystem Office and the Regional Mycologist's staff. Survey areas and methods were not designed to meet the objectives of site specific, pre-disturbance surveys. Survey methods used in selected areas were line transects, plotless transects, and randomized plots. Of the three species found on the Medford District, three were discovered by BLM or contract botanists performing pre-disturbance surveys.

**Table 2.** Forest Community Component for Medford District Bureau Sensitive and S&M B/F Species

	PSME	PIPO/ PILA	ABCO/ Abies	QUKE	Pina	Nearest
<i>Boletus pulcherrimus</i>	•	•	•			2.0
<i>Gastroboletus vividus</i>			•		•	27.5
<i>Rhizopogon ellipsosporus</i>	•	•				34.4
<i>Phaeocollybia olivacea</i>	•		•	•	•	48.0
<i>Phaeocollybia californica</i>	•					55.3
<i>Rhizopogon exiguus</i>	•					57.2
<i>Rhizopogon chamaleontinus</i>	•	•				65.1
<i>Ramaria spinulosa</i> var. <i>diminutiva</i>	•				•	70.7
<i>Dermocybe humboldtensis</i>					•	78.8
<i>Phaeocollybia oregonensis</i>	•					90.3

**Bolded species** = occurs on or within Medford District

PSME = Douglas-fir, forest community component

PIPO = Ponderosa pine, forest community component

ABCO = White fir, forest community component

QUKE = California black oak, forest community component

Pina = Pinaceae family (includes pine, fir, Douglas-fir, spruce, hemlock), forest community component

Nearest = nearest known site, air miles to the project area

*Boletus pulcherrimus* is the red-pored bolete mushroom. It is listed as endemic to the Pacific Northwest, including northern California, but has also been reported from New Mexico. In the range of the NFP, there are 43 known sites. Four sites are on the Medford District in the vicinity of Hyatt Lake, two are on the Rogue River National Forest, and three borders the Medford District on the Winema National Forest. Nearest site to the project area is approximately 2.0 air miles away. NFP habitat data is available for only the Medford and Winema sites. Plant community data shows this species occurs in White fir/Douglas-fir early mature forests, Douglas-fir/White fir/Ponderosa pine young forest, White fir/chinquapin communities, and Shasta red fir/chinquapin communities. Elevation ranges from 4,620 to 5,640 feet. Habitat data for other NFP sites is in humus in association with roots of mixed conifers (Grand fir, Douglas-fir) and hardwoods (tanoak) in coastal forests.

*Dermocybe humboldtensis* is a green-brown cap mushroom with olive-yellow gills. It is endemic to California and Oregon. In the range of the NFP, there are four known sites. There are no sites located in the Little Butte Creek or Jenny Creek watersheds. The nearest site occurs on the BLM Roseburg District approximately 72.8 air miles away. Habitat data for the Roseburg sites is incomplete; community type is listed as Ponderosa Pine-Douglas-fir for one site. Other NFP habitat community types are for coastal dune Redwood/Douglas-fir and Redwood/Sitka spruce.

*Gastroboletus vividus* is a bright yellow and red bolete mushroom that is formed beneath the soil surface. It is endemic to California and Oregon. In the range of the NFP, there are five known sites; one site occurs in the Rogue River National Forest. Nearest site to the project area is in the Applegate Ranger District and is approximately 27.5 air miles away. Habitat data reports an association with various Pinaceae, particularly red fir and mountain hemlock.

*Phaeocollybia californica* is an orange-brown gilled mushroom with a long pseudorhiza. It is endemic to the Pacific Northwest. In the range of the NFP, there are 38 known sites. The site nearest the project area is approximately 55.3 air miles away in the vicinity of Wilderville. NFP habitat data shows this species is associated with Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and tanoak communities. Other habitat data reports additional associations with Pacific silver fir, Sitka spruce and redwood.

*Phaeocollybia olivacea* is a dark olive, glutinous, gilled mushroom with a long pseudorhiza. It is endemic to Washington, Oregon, and northern California. There are 115 known sites in the NFP area and an additional four sites outside the NFP area. Nine sites are within the Medford District boundary with the site nearest the project area being approximately 48.0 air miles away in the vicinity of Williams, Oregon. Medford District habitat data shows an association with Douglas-fir and Port Orford cedar. Other habitat data reports additional associations with western hemlock, redwood, Sitka spruce, tanoak, white fir, and mixed conifer forests with Fagaceae and Pinaceae. Elevation ranges from sea level to 3060 feet.

*Phaeocollybia oregonensis* is a gray-brown, glutinous, gilled mushroom with a long pseudorhiza. In the range of the NFP, it is known only from 13 sites in Oregon. The site nearest the project area is approximately 90.3 air miles away on the BLM Coos Bay District. Habitat data reports an association with western hemlock and white fir. Elevation ranges from 550 to 4056 feet.

*Ramaria spinulosa* var. *diminutiva* is a brown coral fungus known from only one site in the range of the NFP. It is also known from Europe. The single Oregon site is in the BLM Roseburg District in a late successional Douglas-fir forest at 1200 feet elevation. This site is approximately 70.7 air miles from the project area and is southeast of Roseburg. Other habitat data reports an association with Pinaceae.

*Rhizopogon chamaleontinus* is a white globose underground truffle fungus. It is known from one site in the range of the NFP but is also known from Idaho. The single NFP site is mapped on Oregon Department of Forestry land near Galice. The site is approximately 65.1 air miles from the project area. Habitat data for this site is Douglas-fir forest at 3300 feet in elevation.

*Rhizopogon ellipsosporus* is a brown subglobose underground truffle fungus. It is known from only five sites in the NFP area; four within the Medford District boundary and one in the northern Oregon Cascades. The nearest site is approximately 34.4 air miles from the project area near Cantrall-Buckley Park. Habitat data lists an association with Douglas-fir and Sugar Pine.

*Rhizopogon exiguus* is a white mottled globose underground truffle fungus. It is endemic to Oregon with only three sites known in the NFP area. The nearest site is approximately 57.2 miles away in the vicinity of Waters Creek on the Siskiyou National Forest. The elevation is 2800 feet. Habitat data lists an association with Douglas-fir and western hemlock.

For these 10 fungi, species specific information on connectivity and habitat requirements, range (including occurrences within the project area), and disturbance effects is lacking. The 2004 FSEIS to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines addresses incomplete or unavailable information.

Although three of these 10 species are known to occur on or within the Medford District boundary (they may occur on other Federal or private land), none are known to occur in the project area. Therefore, we have no information that would cause us to find that the proposed action would have any effect on any of



these 10 species.

There would be no direct effects from not granting the right-of-way. Indirect effects could include loss of suitable habitat for Special Status Plants, Lichens, and Fungi from new road construction at a different site if access were to be granted over private land. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner would likely seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance.

## 7. Noxious Weeds and Introduced Plants

Noxious weeds are generally nonnative plants that cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Introduced plants are species that are nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration. Introduced plants may adversely affect the proper functioning condition of the ecosystem.

Noxious weeds are uncommon in the project area. The weed sites in the area are mostly associated with roads and off-highway vehicle traffic. Two species of noxious weeds in the vicinity of the project area are on the Oregon Department of Agriculture List B. "B" designated weeds are weeds of economic importance which are regionally abundant but may have limited distribution in some counties. Table 2. lists the noxious weeds and introduced plants in the vicinity of the project area.

### Oregon Department of Agriculture List B Noxious Weeds

Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) is a taprooted biennial with spiny stems, leaves, and inflorescences. Each flower head can produce up to 250 seeds. Most seed falls within six feet of the parent plant and only 100 feet. Seed survival is very low, as is seedling and rosette survival. It is estimated to take 200 seeds to produce one flowering plant. Bull thistle seedlings are poor competitors and require bare mineral soil to survive. There are 1531 documented sites (incomplete records, data no longer tracked) reported for the Medford District. Casual observation and recent records have verified several sites in the vicinity of the project area. This weed is a native of Eurasia. Detrimental effects include displacement of native species, decrease of plant diversity, and reduced forage. Active control methods are not usually employed. Bull thistle is eventually outcompeted by other vegetation for light, moisture, and nutrients.

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is a perennial with an extensive root system. This prickly rose-purple flowered plant can produce up to 1500 wind transported seed per flowering shoot. Seed can remain viable in the soil for 20 years. Vegetative reproduction contributes to local spread and persistence. The large fibrous taproot can send out lateral roots as deep as three feet below the ground, from which shoots sprout up at frequent intervals. It also regenerates from root fragments less than one inch in length. There are 896 sites reported for the Medford District with several sites in the vicinity of the project area. This weed is a native of Eurasia. Detrimental effects include displacement of native species, decrease of plant diversity, reduced forage, and serves as an alternate host for insects and pathogenic microorganisms that attack various crops. Successful control methods include biological, chemical, cultural, and some limited success with mechanical.

**Table 2. Noxious weeds and Introduced plants in the vicinity of the Project Area.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	ODA List*
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	common winter crest	
<i>Bromus hordaceus</i>	soft brome	
<i>Bromus japonicus</i>	Japanese brome	
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	B
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	bull thistle	B
<i>Crepis capillaries</i>	smooth hawksbeard	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	timothy	

<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	bulbous bluegrass	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	common dandelion	
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	suckling clover	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	
<i>Verbascum thapsis</i>	common mullein	

Under the No-Action alternative the potential for weed spread on private and public lands still exists regardless of whether new road construction occurs; however the potential and rate of spread if plants were introduced would be lower than under the action alternative. We assume that obtaining alternate access over private land would not include treatment of any noxious weeds as they become established with a higher risk of spread than road construction on public lands where monitoring and treatment (if needed) would occur.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, project design features are incorporated into the proposed action to minimize spread of noxious weeds and invasive alien plant species. However, not all weed seed transported by humans can be excluded from the project area. Weed seed may travel to the project area from adjacent or nearby weed populations, additionally, long distance weed seed transport can be accomplished by wind, water, and animals. Thus, with suitable weed habitat increasing as a consequence of the proposed action, total exclusion of new weed establishments is unattainable. Particularly vulnerable areas are from the clearing limits to the edge of the traveled way.

By project design, noxious weeds will be inventoried and treated by BLM. Inventories will occur the first three years after completion of road construction and then periodically thereafter. Treatments will be scheduled by priority and will occur based on the potential of the weed population to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. With noxious weed inventory and treatment, we expect weed establishments, as a result of this project, to remain a low potential to cause harm.

## 8. Cultural Resources

The proposed project would have no adverse effects on known cultural resources. A cultural resource survey was completed and no resources were found.

This project would not result in restricting access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. No sites have been identified in the project area. Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites).

This project would have no effect on Indian Trust Resources as none exist in the project area.

## 9. Recreation & Visual Resources

The project area is located within the Hyatt Lake-Howard Prairie Lake Special Recreation Management Area and is to be managed to meet Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II objectives. VRM Class II lands are to be managed for low levels of change to the characteristic landscape. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer.

“Visual Resources are the land, water, vegetation, structures, and cultural modifications that make up the scenery of BLM-administered land.” Medford District BLM-administered lands have been classified under a Visual Resource Management (VRM) Inventory Class system established by the BLM. The criteria used to determine VRM classes were scenery quality ratings, public sensitivity ratings and distance zone-seen area mapping criteria. Approximately 60 percent of the viewsheds in the Medford

District RMP planning area have fragmented land ownership patterns with private lands dominating the viewed landscape (RMP/EIS p. 3-70).

The characteristic landscape in the vicinity of the project area retains the look of a fragmented forest from timber harvest, roads, recreational and residential developments. The viewpoint for the project area (the proposed driveway) is from Hyatt Prairie Road. For hydrologic reasons (see Hydrology Section H, 1), the road is designed to be constructed flush with the ground level, following the existing landform. The new road would be visible to passers by for a few seconds, but the level of change would be low as determined from a contrast rating evaluation (Appendix A-Contrast Rating Worksheet).

There would be no direct effects from not granting the right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not authorized by the BLM at this time, the landowner could seek legal action to obtain a right-of-way either across the existing route on adjacent private land or across the BLM route now being proposed. Access across the existing route would involve little if any new vegetation disturbance and minor disturbance from road maintenance/renovation having low level of change to the characteristic landscape.

## **10. Other Effects**

### **a. Potential Effects to Public Health and Safety.**

No aspects of the project have been identified as having the potential to significantly and adversely impact public health or safety. All operations on BLM-administered lands are required to meet Occupational Safety and Health Association regulations for worker and public safety.

### **b. Potential for highly controversial environmental effects.**

The proposed right-of-way and its anticipated effects are similar in nature to those of many other past and ongoing projects implemented across the Medford District BLM and are within the scope of and consistent with the Medford Resource Management Plan. No significant or unique level of controversy concerning the effects of this project has been identified.

### **c. Potential for highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.**

The process for estimating the anticipated effects are well known and this project is limited in scope and intensity. The estimated environmental effects identified for this project have been determined to be within the effects described in the Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement or otherwise determined to be insignificant as the project is designed to avoid or minimize the potential for adverse environmental effects.

### **d. Potential to establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.**

Other projects of this nature are implemented on a regular basis on federal lands across the Medford District and in the vicinity of the project area. The Medford District Resource Management Plan provided program direction for rights-of-way across public lands (RMP p. 82). Therefore, this decision would not establish precedent for future projects.

### **e. Environmental Justice**

This project was reviewed for the potential for disproportionately high or adverse effects on minority or low income populations. No adverse impacts to minority or low income populations would occur. *Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice).*

## **I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Scoping has occurred for this Right-of-Way Request (OR 63650) project. Letters were sent February 15, 2007 to adjacent landowners and other interested organizations, tribes, and individuals. The project appeared in the Ashland Resource Area's Schedule of Proposed Actions published in Medford's Messenger (BLM's quarterly newsletter) beginning in the fall of 2006. Public notice of the availability of this EA was provided through advertisement in Medford's *Mail Tribune* newspaper. A copy of this EA is available upon request from the Ashland Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504, (541)618-2384.

This EA was distributed to adjacent landowners and to the following agencies, organizations, companies, and tribes:

### **Organizations and Agencies**

Association of O&C Counties  
Audubon Society  
Jackson County Stockmen's Association  
National Center for Conservation Science and Policy  
Jackson County Commissioners  
Jackson Co. Soil and Water Conservation District  
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Applegate River Watershed Council  
Northwest Environmental Defense Center  
Oregon Department Forestry  
Oregon Natural Resources Council  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Rogue River National Forest (RRNF)  
Pacific Legal Foundation  
League of Wilderness Defenders  
Friends of the Rogue Kalmiopsis  
American Forest Resource Council  
Wilderness Society

Cascadia Wildlands Project  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Meriwether Southern Oregon Land & Timber  
Southern Oregon University  
Southern Oregon Timber Industries  
Jackson County  
Siskiyou Project

### **Federally Recognized Tribes**

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians  
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz  
Klamath Tribe  
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation (Shasta Tribe)  
Shasta Nation

### **Other Tribes**

Confederated Tribes of the Rogue-table Rock  
and Associated Tribes  
Shasta Indian Nation

## **References**

- Kartesz, J.T. 2003. A Synonymized Checklist and Atlas with Biological Attributes for the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. Second Edition. In: Kartesz, J.T. Synthesis of the North American Flora, Version 2.0.
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- USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1994. *Final SEIS On Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan)*. Regional Ecosystem Office, Portland, OR.
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- USDA Forest Service/USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1995. *Jenny Creek Watershed Analysis*. On file at the Medford District Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon
- United States Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management. October 1994. *Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement*.
- United States Department of the Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management. June 1995. *Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan*.

# **APPENDIX A**

## **CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**VISUAL CONTRAST RATING WORKSHEET**

Date

7-16-07

District

Medford

Resource Area

Ashland

Activity (program)

Realty

**SECTION A. PROJECT INFORMATION**

1. Project Name <b>Boydern Road Right-of-Way</b>		4. Location		5. Location Sketch <b>See Attached map or EA Map 1.</b>
2. Key Observation Point <b>Hyatt Prairie Road</b>		Township	<b>38S</b>	
3. VRM Class <b>2</b>		Range	<b>3E</b>	
		Section	<b>25</b>	

**SECTION B. CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION**

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	Land - flat to rolling alpine valley bottom	Conifer dominated with grass dominated understory some shrubs.	Residences, outbuildings and fences on adjacent private lands
LINE	Horizontal dominance - valley	Conifers - vertical grass/forb - flat horizontal Shrubs - round	'Angular' 'boxes' Fences - horizontal, vertical
COLOR	Brown, red - Soil Roadside rock - grey	Greens, browns, grey, reds	Browns, greys, reds
TEXTURE	Rough	Trees - rough, coarse Shrubs Grassy understory - smooth	Hard, coarse

**SECTION C. PROPOSED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

	1. LAND/WATER	2. VEGETATION	3. STRUCTURES
FORM	New road construction - rock road	Slight stem reduction from tree removal	NA
LINE	Horizontal increase - weak	Slight decrease in vertical - weak	NA
COLOR	Increased grey - weak	Green decrease - weak brown decrease weak	NA
TEXTURE	Slight rough increase	Decrease coarse - weak Decrease smooth - weak	NA

**SECTION D. CONTRAST RATING**

SHORT TERM



LONG TERM

1. DEGREE OF CONTRAST		FEATURES												2. Does project design meet visual resource management objectives? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)		
		LAND/WATER BODY (1)				VEGETATION (2)				STRUCTURES (3)						
		Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None	Strong	Moderate	Weak	None			
ELEMENTS	Form															3. Additional mitigating measures recommended  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Explain on reverse side)
	Line			X					X							
	Color			X					X							
	Texture			X					X							
														Evaluator's Names		Date
														Kristi Mastrofina		7/16/07
														Kristi Mastrofina		7/16/07

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Project Tracking Form for Non-Exempt Undertakings under the BLM/SHPO Protocol**



**Project Tracking Form for Non-Exempt Undertakings**  
**under the**  
**Oregon BLM/SHPO Protocol**

Project Name:           Road Right-of-Way (OR 63650)           Project Acres Surveyed: 0.32  
Cultural Project Number: OR110-07-15  
NEPA Number (EIS, EA, CE or Conformance Determination):  
ID Team Leader:  
Location (Township, Range and Section): T.38 S., R.3 E., Sec. 25  
USGS Quad: 7.5 Hyatt Reservoir

☐ Not an Undertaking. Give Justification:

☒ Undertaking

☐ Reduced or Exempted Inventory

☐ Protocol Appendix A (Survey Techniques for Densely Vegetated Areas)

☐ Protocol Appendix B (Livestock Use Allocations)

☐ Protocol Appendix C (Prescribed Burn Project Areas)

☐ Protocol Appendix D (Cultural Resource Inventories in the Coast Range Province)

☐ Protocol Appendix E (Exempt Undertakings)

☐ Other Justification:

☒ Small Project (< 10 acres or <2 linear miles), No Resources

☐ Small Project (< 10 acres or <2 linear miles)

☐ Large Project (> 10 acres or >2 linear miles), No Resources

☐ Large Project (> 10 acres or >2 linear miles)

☒ No Effect Determination, No Resources

☐ No Effect Determination, no significant resources and/or resources avoided

BLM Site Numbers:

BLM Isolate Numbers:

☐ No Adverse Effect (Effects Mitigated Through Treatment)

BLM Site Numbers:

☐ SHPO Review Required

☐ Mitigation Plan forwarded to SHPO for 30 day review.

☐ Indicate Date SHPO Received:

☐ SHPO concurrence; Date:

*The BLM has completed its Section 106 responsibilities under the 1997 National Programmatic Agreement and the 1998 Oregon Protocol.*

Professional Archaeologist Signature

Date 5-14-07

Manager Signature

Date 5/15/07

\*\*\*\*\*

☐ Pre-Project field review of sites needed (check flagging, etc.) not needed

Site Numbers:

Date accomplished:

☐ Post-Project field review

Sites protected:

Dates accomplished: